

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, claims 7-11 and 24-39 were rejected. By the present Response, claims 7-10 and 27-39 are canceled. Accordingly, upon entry of the amendments, claims 11 and 24-26 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Applicants note that the claims were rejected on a single basis, that is, as obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,298,255 to Cordero et al. (hereinafter "Cordero"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,243 to Lin et al. (hereinafter "Lin") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,048,687 to Reuss et al. (hereinafter "Reuss").

Applicants also note that each of the remaining independent claims 11, 24 and 26 require a station adapter and a sensor adapter (or in the case of claim 26, means for connecting the parameter cable to a patient monitoring station and means for connecting the parameter cable to one or more sensors). Applicants further note that all of the prior art discloses sensor cables, that is cables incorporating at least one sensor or electrode and a cable assembly. The prior art cables are unitary structures such that the sensors are inseparable from the portion of the cable structure that includes memory circuitry.

It is clear from the prior art that the intended cables are disposable with the attached sensors or electrodes. This appears clear in Cordero and Reuss, where the count data stored in the sensor cable assembly serves the purpose of determining the useful life of the cable based upon the number of times used. On the contrary, the claimed cables can be used with a variety of sensors, and a variety of monitors, and are not disposable in this way. Accordingly, they can be coupled to various sensors for various purposes, and they can remain coupled to sensors attached to particular patients, storing data relating to both the cable, to demographics of the patients, and so forth, which can be uploaded to a different monitor in the event a patient is moved. After a

use, then, the cables can be reused for different patients, different monitors, different sensors, and so forth. This is not the case with the prior art cable assemblies, particularly because they do not include sensor adapters as do the claimed devices.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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